

Utah County

Bennion charts a course for quality

Superintendent on the school reform vanguard

By Leo Perry
Deseret News staff writer

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PROVO — The quality of teachers is the most important factor in quality instruction, says Dr. John W. Bennion, named earlier this year as one of the top 100 school superintendents in America.

Bennion, superintendent of the Provo School District, said the goal of the administration under the new career ladder program in Provo will be to help teachers become all they are capable of becoming.

"In addition, the career ladder program will attract first-rate minds into the profession."

Bennion's recent honor came through selection by the Executive Educator, a publication for school administrators.

"The superintendent ought to be a leader, not just a manager or a maintainer," he said.

Bennion, now in his third superintendency, said his major interest is the improvement of instruction.

Education is not only directly related to individual fulfillment, but also to the success of the democratic society we live in," he said.

Bennion, a Utah native and the son of a school superintendent, said the salary of teachers unfortunately has not reflected their true value. "Even over the 12-month period, it isn't what other occupations are making."

"Young people are the most cherished assets we have and we owe them the best preparation for a productive and fruitful life that can be provided," he said.

Bennion said one of the problems for education has been that educators try to take on too many goals.

"Schools have been asked to solve the problem of racial discrimination in our country, safe driving on the highway, the problems related to drugs, alcohol and sex abuses.

"All of these are very important, but no one institution can fulfill all of them," he said.

"Educators are trying to help students develop intellectually and that should be the primary goal."

Bennion said educators need to be sympathetic and do what they can to solve social problems, but they must distinguish their primary mission, which is to impart knowledge and develop students' knowledge.

Bennion, who is the father of six boys ranging in age from 19 years to 4 months, said he and his wife, Sylvia, try to be good role models by being ongoing learners. His wife attended seven different institutions of higher education while Bennion was accepting educational posts throughout the country and just last year earned her bachelor's degree at Brigham Young University.

"All adults should continue learning for the sake of their own development and to provide good examples for their children," he said.

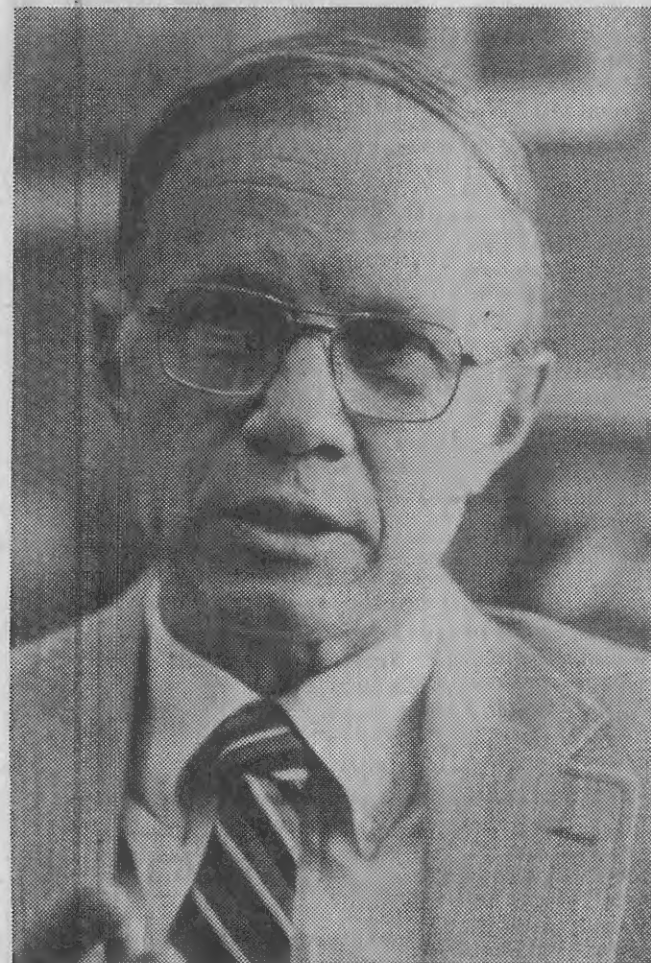
Bennion's pet project is the career ladder concept for teachers, which allows them in most cases to make teaching a year-round project rather than the traditional nine-month job.

"We will be extending all of the teachers' contracts in the Provo District to give them additional time to sharpen their teaching, improve the curriculum and prepare their courses of study."

The second notion is to provide teachers with leadership opportunities based on their teaching excellence and professional leadership skills, to advance them both in responsibility and compensation over the career cycle.

The recent approval by Provo voters of a voted leeway referendum gives the Provo District the opportunity to place Bennion's pet project into operation. He already has held numerous meetings and hopes to have the innovative plan in operation in 1985.

See BENNION on U-2



PHOTOGRAPHY/GARY McKELLAR

John W. Bennion has been named one of the nation's top 100 school superintendents.



Staff on vital matters of state. From left, Westwood, Debbie Jones, Todd Killian.

ke over, it's more in the suites

Complex.

The Youth Council has used the dances in the complex to raise money. Thursday night the council voted to give \$25 to the Future Farmers of America, \$20 to the American Legion for Loyalty Day May 1 and \$20 to the Scottish Day Festival to be held in connection with Payson's On-ion Days.

Some money will also be given to the city to repair the old piano in the banquet hall.

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Utah County

LDS mission calls

Elder Jason West Parkinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund S. Parkinson, Orem 96th Ward, Taiwan Taipei.

Elder Harold David Ernest Hunt, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Keith Hunt, Orem 43rd Ward, France Paris.

Elder Christopher James Montgomery, son of Mr. and Mrs. David C. Montgomery, Orem 38th Ward, New Mexico Albuquerque.

Elder Preston L. Hoopes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chad L. Hoopes, Orem 38th Ward, Sweden Stockholm.

Elder David Eugene Wind, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Eugene Wind, Orem 32nd Ward, Korea Pusan.

Elder William Wallace Osborn IV, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Wallace Osborn, Spanish Fork 3rd Ward, England Bristol.

Elder Russell L. Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry E. Allen, American Fork 21st Ward, Hawaii Honolulu.

Elder Kerry Jay Smith, American Fork 9th Ward, Japan Kobe.

Utah County deaths

P. Burnell Perry

PROVO — P. Burnell Perry, 74, died April 26, 1984, in American Fork Hospital of natural causes.

He was born Nov. 5, 1909, in Mapleton, to Parley Pratt and Ardilla Gallup Perry. He married Alene Hawkins, Sept. 14, 1929, in Provo. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake LDS Temple.

He received his early education in Springville schools. He worked for U.S. Steel-Geneva Works and retired in September 1974. He was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Provo 11th Ward and was an elder in the church. He was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge. He was an avid bowler and fisherman.

He is survived by his wife of Provo; two sons and two daughters: Newell B. Perry, Brigham City; W. Stevens Perry, Springville; Mrs. Henry B. (Norma Nell) Harris and Mrs. Dave (Drusilla) Eckersley, both of American Fork; 17 grandchildren; one brother and two sisters: Lewis R. Perry, Provo; Mrs. Burt (Marva) Taylor, Springville; Mrs. Inez Rudolph, Boise, Idaho. He was preceded in death by a son, Rex.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday in the Berg Drawing Room Chapel, 185 E. Center, Provo. Friends may call 6-8 p.m. Sunday or one hour before services Monday. Burial will be in the Evergreen Cemetery, Springville.

Mirl Healey

AMERICAN FORK — Mirl Mae Sunderland Healey, 63, died April 25, 1984, at her home. She was born in Lehi, Nov. 27, 1920, to Thomas Edward and Alice Elizabeth Chadwick Sunderland. She married Fred Floyd Healey, Nov. 22, 1946, in Lehi. Their marriage was solemnized in the Salt Lake LDS Temple, Feb. 23, 1949.

23rd LDS Ward Chapel, 680 N. 350 West. Friends may call the Anderson & Sons Mortuary, 49 E. First North, American Fork, Friday evening, 7-9, and Saturday 9:30-10:30 a.m. Burial will be in American Fork City Cemetery.

Alice Barbee

ELBERTA — Alice Hope Crippen Barbee, 56, died April 24, 1984, in Mountain View Hospital, in Payson. She was born March 17, 1928, in Grove Spring, Mo., to Elmer Asa and Mae Mandie Tooley Crippens. She married Bob Barbee. He preceded her in death.

She was educated in Grants Pass, Ore. She worked as a telephone operator for GTE in California, for many years. She was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

She is survived by a daughter, Kathleen; mother, Mae Spink, Elberta; one sister, one brother; Charles Elmer Crippen, Cudahy, Calif.; Mrs. Cecil (June Grace) Sellers, Magrath, Alberta, Canada. She was preceded in death by a son, William.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, 10 a.m. in the Elberta LDS Ward Chapel. Friends may call one hour before services. Burial will be in Goshen City Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements by Walker Mortuary, Payson.

Alexander Izatt

OVERTON, Nev. — Alexander George Izatt, 74, died April 24, 1984, in a hospital in Las Vegas, Nev.

He was born Oct. 21, 1909, in Logan, the son of George James and Charlotte Stephens Izatt. He married Edith Louene Call, June 23, 1933, in the Salt Lake LDS Temple.

He attended Utah State University. He served in the Navy during